Wheeler, William [subject]

Wheeler, [illegible] [his sister, [illegible]ter]

Wheeler, Daniel [their father, subject]

[Prominent Quakers in England, France,
but mostly Shoosharry, St Petersburg,
Russia.]

[Pamphlet only. No envelope.]

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY SARAH WHEELER,

Dated 1st mo. 2d, 1841.

I cannot at the moment comply with your request to furnish you with some particulars of my beloved brother William, but I quite hope to do so at some future time. Of the closing days of his life we have indeed comparatively few details beyond the ample assurance conveyed by the friends who surrounded his dying bed, of the preparedness of the departing spirit for the scenes on which it was about to enter. Indeed, his life, though comparatively short, had been such as to leave us without a doubt of his being an heir of that Salvation, the blessed fruits of which his daily walks among us had borne such unequivocal testimony to. For the last few years of his life the all-pervading influence of Christian principle was most strikingly exemplified from day to day, and combined as it was with a strongly marked natural character, great power of mind, and remarkably penetrating judgment, the influence which he exercised over all around him, was such as I have rarely seen equalled in any other instance. The clearness of his spiritual vision was indeed remarkable. His eye being single, the whole body seemed truly full of light, and it seemed given him at seasons not only to discern the path appointed for himself to walk in, but he was made extremely helpful to others in their Zionward journey. I have heard him remark that he believed his vocation was that of a parlor preacher, and most powerfully did he exercise it on many memorable occasions, in which his clear religious views upon practice were most eloquently set forth. In losing him, we seem to lose a second father, as well as a most tenderly beloved companion and friend, for during our dear father's long absence from home, he had so completely filled his place among us that we naturally referred to him at all times just as we would have done to a parent, and relied most implicitly on his counsel.

I have sometimes been ready to think that he was taken away from us to prevent our resting short of that Heavenly Counsellor from whom all his wisdom and strength were derived. And hard as it was to resign him, I have thought at times that even this cup of exceeding bitterness was dispensed in mercy. Never can I forget the feelings of desolation and dismay that seemed ready to overwhelm our feeble remnant, when we found that he had actually been taken to his Heavenly home. We were till then comparatively untutored in the school of sorrow, and those to whom we should naturally have looked for support under this overwhelming trial were in distant lands, unconscious of our suffering. But He whose compassions fail not was Himself our helper, and brought us through these deep and troubled waters with our faith renewed in His almighty power. The decease of our dear William seemed indeed like the beginning of sorrow, at least that series of trials which seems still in progress; for it was four years previous to that period that we were deprived of our beloved and excellent mother. But in my brother's case, while our hearts were still bleeding from this deep and careless wound, we were roused from the contemplation of past sorrows by the illness of dear Jane; this commenced only

four weeks after hearing of dear William's death, and for the following seven months we had the mingled distress and consolation of witnessing her severe sufferings of body and the gradual progress of the work of regeneration in her soul. This season of excitement and at times of bitter anguish completed, our wounded spirits were graciously permitted a few months of calm, when tidings of the very delicate state of dear Charles once more involved us in distress and anxiety. For a time we hoped against hope, but eventually as thou art aware, had to watch the gradual withering of our beloved and cherished gourd and the blighting of a life as dear almost to some of us as our own existence. Before this scene of conflict was over, another of our number (Joshua) had drooped, and while still watching anxiously over his fluctuating symptoms, the parent stem was cut down as in its greenness and vigor, and our tears again flowed bitterly under the accumulated pressure of past and present bereavements. What may be the next in store for us He only knows who sees the end from the beginning, and Oh! that He may graciously deign still to appoint strength according to our need.

I know not why I should have entered upon this mournful catalogue of our sorrows, for, severe as they may seem, I feel that through and under all we have still abundant cause to rejoice and give thanks under the animating conviction that they who have been taken from us are but gathered to their Heavenly home, and eternally united in that better state, where I humbly trust a few short years, perhaps even a shorter period, may again re-unite us. Our pleasant pictures have indeed been marred, as regards this world, but that better hope which lives beyond the grave, remains unclouded and even glows more brightly amid the gloom which encompasses our pilgrim journey.

FAMILY OF DANIEL WHEELER

DANIEL WHEELER, born in London, 1771, died in New York, 6th month, 1840.

He was married to JANE BRADY, 6th month, 1800. She deceased at Shoosharry, near St. Petersburg, Russia, 12th month, 1832.

THEIR CHILDREN WERE:

WILLIAM WHEELER, born 1801; died 1836, in the Isle of Wight.

JOSHUA " " 1803; " 1841, at Clifton, near Bristol, England

SARAH " " 1807; married 1849 to WILLIAM TANNER, of Sidcot. He deceased 11th month, 1866, and she, 3d month, 1867.

CHARLES WHEELER, born 1810; died 1840, at St. Germain, near Paris.

DANIEL " " 1813; married 1846; died 1848, at Clevedon, near Bristol.

JANE " " 1816; died 1837, at Shoosharry.

DANIEL WHEELER, SR., was buried in New York City; his wife and daughter JANE were interred in a private burying ground at Shoosharry. WILLIAM, JOSHUA and CHARLES were buried at Southampton, England; DANIEL at Bristol; and SARAH and her husband at SIDCOT, in Somersetshire, about fifteen miles from Bristol, England.

Presented to our friends who have given us their company, and have shared with us in the interest and profit derived from a perusal of the instructive memoirs of Daniel Wheeler.

3709 Baring Street, Philadelphia, 3d mo. 27th, 1885.